

Proposed Merger between Sovereign Community School (SCS) and Santa Fe South

1. Proposed Scope of Proposal

Sovereign Community School and Santa Fe South Schools are proposing a merger of the schools with the following parameters:

- SFS agrees to assume all SCS financial obligations. Debts will be repaid with assistance from Santa Fe South Dev Corp.
- SFS agrees to hire SCS school leader, Matt Wilson, as principal. Matt will determine the appropriate staffing plan for SCS in coordination with SFS superintendent, Chris Brewster, and offers will be made to existing SCS employees and additional staff as deemed necessary and/or appropriate.
- The SCS nonprofit will remain in place but will shift from a school to a foundation supporting the SCS campus.
- SFS agrees to accept a new board member on its board, proposed by the SCS nonprofit board.
- The SCS school board will reconstitute itself as a nonprofit board and will serve in an advisory role to the SCS campus in support of the academic and cultural programming at the school. SFS will seat a member on this board as well at the invitation of SCS board.
- This proposal will be in effect for up to three years. When the SCS board has the financial wherewithal and support from a charter school sponsor, the SCS board will have the opportunity to re-establish SCS as an independent charter school, assuming the school has re-paid all financial obligations assumed by SFS Dev Corp.

2. Critical Aspects of the Proposal

- SCS will continue with its specific design and approach to indigenous curriculum.
- SCS will have the ability to become a separate entity at the end of the agreed upon term of partnership.
- The SCS foundation's board will serve as an advisory board for SCS focused on curriculum and community related issues.
- The SCS foundation's board will have a representative on the SFS School Board.
- SCS will maintain the ability to recognize holidays and cultural practices as needed and seen fit for the benefit of our students.
- SFS will have full financial oversight and will determine all staffing allocations and operational expenditures, including grants made to SCS (CSP, etc.)
- SCS advisory board will solicit funding support from other entities including tribes and will have authority to designate use of all funds raised through these efforts.

3. Proposed Next Steps

- With the State Board's permission to move forward, SCS and SFS will finalize a contractual agreement for SFS to merge with SCS.
- SCS and SFS will submit this contract to the State Board Education's General Counsel by June 12, 2020.
- We request that the State Board of Education consider approving this merger at their scheduled board meeting on June 25, 2020, allowing SFS to close out the financial year and allow SCS to move forward as an SCS campus for the 2020-2021 school year.

